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PRESS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York announced that Richard Reid, of Lowman and Elmira, was sentenced today to five years probation, with the conditions that he serve six months in home detention and make full restitution for a \$58,010.02 counterfeit check that he admitted possessing and uttering in Schenectady, New York.

Reid, age 61, was sentenced by Senior United States District Judge Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., based upon his plea on March 2, 2010, to having possessed and deposited the counterfeit check into his account at Trustco Bank, 320 State Street, in Schenectady on January 5, 2007. The check was drawn on the account of Buttonwood, Inc., which also does business as Buttonwood Books and Toys of Cohasset, Massachusetts. The defendant subsequently was identified by a Trustco employee in a photo array presented by the Schenectady Police Department and, following his arrest by federal authorities last March, executed a sworn statement indicating in substance, among other things, that he had received the counterfeit check in the mail through "an internet deal," that he had signed and deposited the check, and that he had received approximately \$20,000 from it, with which he purchased a used car and some things for himself and his girlfriend. In fact, investigation revealed that he withdrew virtually all of the funds, including wiring some to another account that he controlled in Elmira.

The investigation in this matter was conducted by the local offices of the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Secret Service. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

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